

Adult Justice and Mental Health Subcommittee
Meeting Notes
5.23.07

- The subcommittee members discussed adding a District Attorney appointed by the District Attorney's Association to this Taskforce
- Doug Freeman from Judge McCooley's Office will be the representative for the committee
- The adult subcommittee representative for the CMHC's will be Richard Craig from JBS
- The subcommittee identified other ongoing initiatives that coincide with this planning initiative. The subcommittee felt that this project needs to coordinate efforts and share information with other groups having a similar focus. The subcommittee identified the following initiatives:
 - **Drug Court Initiative-** Michael Gregory from AOC reported that Justice Cobb has developed a **Statewide Chief Justice Taskforce**. This taskforce will review regulations and develop standards for drug courts across the state. The goal of Justice Cobb's Taskforce is to get 6 new drug courts up and running. Justice Cobb will also be looking to develop mental health courts across the state as well.
 - **The Chief Justice Mental Health Taskforce** has been established but is just now getting off the ground. The taskforce is looking at conducting training for best practices by next January or February.
 - There is the **Governor's Taskforce on Strengthening AL Families** that is charged with streamlining access to services and coordinating information among agencies
 - The Department of Corrections is currently looking into their regulations and treatment services regarding the inmate population. They are looking to hire more mental health staff, develop training programs and identify resources and linkages to those resources before reentry into the community. Elana Parker with the Dept. of Public Health has been hired to assist with this effort.
 - The Department of Corrections is also looking at policy issues surrounding halfway houses that are not certified. DOC currently provides inmates a listing of halfway houses that are available in the state. However, many of the halfway houses are not certified or regulated.
 - The Department of Correction's **Community Corrections Program** may receive start up money for drug courts in their area. Justice Cobb and Commissioner Allen of DOC are working together to line item money to DOC to go directly for community corrections. Community Corrections is an alternative to prison and will reduce overcrowding. Many judges state that they want someone to receive substance abuse treatment so they send them to DOC. However, with additional funds to link drug courts to community corrections programs, treatment will be available without having to go through the prison system.